

6/8/64

Airtel

1 - [redacted]

REC-32 139-1990-1

b6
b7C

To: SAC, Birmingham

From: Director, FBI

THOMAS LANKFORD
UPUC

PL
Reurairtel 6/4/64.

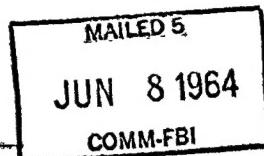
Rv return mail surep setting forth complaint of [redacted] in order that it may be appropriately disseminated to the Department.

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JWH/ras
(4) *ras*

NOTE: Birmingham by airtel dated 6/4/64 advised that [redacted], stated he had received an anonymous telephone call from a person who said he was a telephone lineman. This person told [redacted] that his line had been tapped by a reporter from the Birmingham News during fall of 1963. [redacted] for defamation of character and said that he was furnishing the information to the FBI because he feared that the information obtained by tapping his telephone would be used in connection with his civil suit. Birmingham instructed to submit report for dissemination.

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Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

7-2 DEPT OF JUSTICE
JUN 12 1964

61 JUN 12 1964
MAIL ROOM [redacted] TELETYPE UNIT [redacted]

FBI

Date: 6/4/64

Transmit the following in:

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTELAIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Birmingham (139-NEW) (C)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LANKFORD
UPUC
(OO: BIRMINGHAM)

On June 3, 1964,

[redacted] telephonically advised that he had received an anonymous telephone call from an individual [redacted] who identified himself as a telephone company lineman. This individual told [redacted] that sometime during the Fall of 1963, while the investigation concerning the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church was in progress, THOMAS LANKFORD, reporter for the Birmingham News, tapped [redacted] telephone line from a box next to [redacted] home.

[redacted] stated he was arrested in 1960, in connection with the beating of Freedom Riders at the Birmingham Bus Terminal, on Mother's Day. [redacted] stated that he was subsequently acquitted on assault charges stemming from this incident, and [redacted] for alleged defamation of character, resulting from publicity focused by the News on [redacted]

[redacted] stated that the reason he is furnishing this information to the FBI was that he feared information which was possibly gained by LANKFORD would be used in connection with his civil trial. [redacted] was advised that Federal jurisdiction in wire tapping cases is dependent upon publication of the unlawfully obtained information.

3-Bureau

4-Birmingham (2 - 139-NEW) REC-32

(1 - 157-352) (BAPBOMB)

(1 - 157-411) [redacted]

RM:ela

(7)

MCT-13

139-1920-1

11 JUN 9 1964

initials 7-8-64
6-8-64
TWH/has

Approved:

P.L.F./J.Z.P.

Sent

M

Per

Special Agent in Charge

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b7Db6
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b7Db6
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b7Db6
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b7D

BH 139-NEW

Due to the vagueness and lack of corroboration concerning these facts, no action will be taken on this matter at the present time, UACB.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE BIRMINGHAM	OFFICE OF ORIGIN BIRMINGHAM	DATE 6/10/64	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/3 - 4/64
TITLE OF CASE ① THOMAS LANKFORD		REPORT MADE BY ROBERT MURPHY	TYPED BY rvm
		CHARACTER OF CASE UPUC	

REFERENCE: Birmingham airtel to Bureau, 6/4/64.
Bureau airtel to Birmingham, 6/8/64.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

--

No description of LANKFORD furnished since [redacted]
could not supply same.

APPROVED

COPIES MADE:

SPECIAL AGENT,
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

② - Bureau

3 - Birmingham (139-26)

139-1990-	2	STB1022
16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964
16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT			
AGENCY	16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964
REQUEST REC'D.	6/24/64	6/24/64	6/24/64
DATE FWD.	6/24/64	6/24/64	6/24/64
HOW FWD.	6/24/64	6/24/64	6/24/64
BY	6/24/64	6/24/64	6/24/64

NOTATIONS

SAC
STAFF SECT.

22 JUN 25 1964 303

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA ROBERT MURPHY N Office: Birmingham, Alabama
Date: 6/10/64

Field Office File No.: 139-26

Bureau File No.:

Title: THOMAS LANKFORD

Character: UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OR USE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Synopsis: On 6/3/64, [redacted] advised that an anonymous telephone call, purportedly from a telephone company lineman, advised him his telephone had been tapped during the Fall of 1963 by THOMAS LANKFORD, employee of "Birmingham News". [redacted]

[redacted] for defamation of character concerning publicity given to assault charges against [redacted] in 1960. Security Department, Southern Bell Telephone Company, Birmingham, advised of allegation and no evidence of wire tap found.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/10/64Informant

[redacted] telephonically advised he recently received an anonymous telephone call from an individual who identified himself as a telephone company lineman. This individual told [redacted] that during the Fall of 1963, THOMAS LANKFORD, an employee of "The Birmingham News", had tapped [redacted] telephone line from a box outside [redacted] house. [redacted] stated he had also observed LANKFORD parked in a green panel truck with one-way glass near his house during the Fall of 1963 and when he, [redacted] approached LANKFORD and asked what he was doing there, LANKFORD replied he was watching the road and working with the Sheriff's Office.

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[redacted] stated he found a transmitter set at 98.75 megacycles FM in his car during the Fall of 1963 and believes this was also placed there by LANKFORD, since LANKFORD is well known as a "wire tapper". He could not elaborate on this.

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[redacted] stated the reason his line was tanned was because [redacted]

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[redacted] stated the reason he was passing along this information concerning LANKFORD was because he feared that some information gained from the tap would be used in his civil suit when it comes to trial.

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He was advised that Federal jurisdiction in wire tap matters is based on publication of the information, and that without evidence of publication no Federal violation would exist.

On 6/3/64 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 139-26

by SA ROBERT MURPHY - HSS/rvm Date dictated 6/8/64

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

BH 139-26

On June 3, 1964, SAC RAY L. FAISST advised Mr. [redacted] State Security Manager, Southern Bell Telephone Company, Birmingham, Alabama, of the complaint received from [redacted]

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On June 4, 1964, [redacted] advised SA(A) DONALD GUTHRIE that a check of [redacted] telephone line reflected no indication of wire tapping.

6/22/64

1 - Mr. Swanson

Airtel

To: SAC, Birmingham
From: Director, FBI (139-1990)
THOMAS LANKFORD
UPUC

ReBuairtel 6/8/64.

Advise date report submitted and name of reporting Agent. If not already submitted, submit immediately advising reasons for delay.

HCS/ras
(4)

NOTE: Birmingham by airtel dated 6/4/64 advised that [redacted] [redacted] stated he had received an anonymous telephone call from a person who said he was a telephone lineman. This person told [redacted] that his line had been tapped by a reporter from the Birmingham News during fall of 1963. [redacted] for defamation of character and said that he was furnishing the information to the FBI because he feared that the information obtained by tapping his telephone would be used in connection with his civil suit. Birmingham instructed to submit report for dissemination.

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MAILED 2Z
JUN 23 1964
COMM-FBI

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

64 JUN 25 1964 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

REC-46 139-1990-3

19 JUN 22 1964

F B I

Date: 6-23-64

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI (139-1990)
 FROM: SAC, Birmingham (139-26) (C)
 THOMAS LANKFORD
 UPUC

ReBUAirtel 6-22-64.

Report of SA ROBERT MURPHY submitted by Birmingham under date 6-10-64.

3-Bureau (AM)
 1-Birmingham
 AMS:rlg
 (4)

REC-13
 139-1990-4

EX 101

1 JUN 25 1964

C C - WPK

SPE

66 Appr'd: *E. J. Lewis*
 66 JUN 5 1964
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____